INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

No. 1638 — Washington, D. C. — June 29, 1957

ICC Regulations on Safety for Migrant Farm Workers

Regulations concerning the safety of operation and equipment, the qualifications of drivers and maximum hours of service, and the comfort of passengers of motor vehicles transporting migrant agricultural workers in interstate commerce were issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission on June 19. The regulations, to become effective on August 1, were promulgated pursuant to legislation passed a year ago.

Proposed regulations were made public last December, the written views of interested persons were solicited, informal discussions were held, and finally a public hearing was ordered and held. The N.C.A. suggested a number of modifications to the original proposal (see INFORMATION LETTER of March 9, page 113) and entered into informal discussions with the Commission. A number of the Association's suggestions for modification were accepted by the Commission and are contained in the regulations.

The complete text of the regulations and the Report of the ICC are reproduced as a Supplement to this issue of the INFORMATION LETTER. A separate mailing of the Supplement is being made to non-members. The Association is making this industry-wide distribution so that canners can assist in the job of educating migrant workers to these new requirements and thus help promote traffic safety this fall during the movement of migrants to their southern homes.

Preliminary Planted Acreage of Vegetables for Processing

To June 15, the prospective planted acreage of nine vegetables for commercial processing totaled 1.70 million acres, 4 percent less than last year's plantings of these crops, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

The June 15 indicated production of green peas for processing is for a crop of 520,450 tons, 5 percent less than the tonnage harvested last year.

Vegetables for Processing	1956	1957 Preliminary	Percent change from 1956
	(acres)	(acres)	
Beans, green lima	105,670	97,280	−8
Beans, snap	140,450	150,910	+7
Beets	21,350	19,840	−7
Cabbage (contract)	10,030	8,900	−11
Corn, sweet	474,880	455,020	−4
Cucumbers for pickles	126,540	139,030	+10
Peas, green	498,260	481,320	−3
Spinach (w. & s.)	29,840	31,640	+6
Tomatoes	353,200	313,350	−11

SBA Would Be Permanent Under Bill Passed by House

The House on June 25 passed and sent to the Senate a bill, H. R. 7963, revising the Small Business Act of 1953 and making the Small Business Administration a permanent federal agency.

The Small Business Administration's activities are designed to help small business gain access to adequate capital and credit, obtain a fair share of government procurement, and obtain competent managerial and technical assistance.

One of the principal objectives of the new legislation is to require SBA to change its definition of a small business concern for purposes of government procurement. SBA would be required to recognize differing characteristics of various industries rather than applying the 500-employee rule to all industries.

The SBA's current definition of a small business, for purposes of government procurement, is "a concern that (1) is not dominant in its field of operation and, with its affiliates, employs fewer than 500 employees, or (2) is certified as a small business concern by the SBA."

The bill provides that when number of employees is used as a standard in defining small business, the maximum number of employees "shall vary from industry to industry to the extent necessary to reflect differing characteristics of such industries and to take

(Please turn to page 237)

N.C.A. Receives Brokers' Convention Room Forms

In the first full week since the mailing to brokers of Convention room reservation forms, 125 broker firms have sent in their requests for rooms at the Atlantic City Convention, January 20-23, 1958. Forms are arriving daily from the 1400 broker firm names submitted thus far by about one-fourth of the N.C.A. membership that normally attends the Canners Convention.

Reservation forms are mailed to brokers in the sequence in which lists of members' brokers are received at N.C.A. headquarters, and the forms after they have been filled in by the brokers and returned to N.C.A. are processed continuously. It is therefore to the interest of members who have not sent in their broker lists to do so at once.

The canner's procedure is to send his list of brokers to R. F. Alexander, National Canners Association, 1133 20th Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C., and, at the same time, to notify each broker that he (the canner) intends to be at the Atlantic City Convention and desires his broker to be present to conduct their usual sales business. The N.C.A. then supplies the brokers with a reservation-request form enabling them to indicate preferences as to hotel and type of accommodation along with arrival and departure dates. When these forms are returned by the brokers, N.C.A. records them. The next step is to forward them to the Atlantic City hotels, which will confirm the reservation direct to the broker.

Acreage of Peas for Canning

The planted acreage of green peas for canning in 1957 totals 337,302 acres, 1 percent more than the 1956 plantings of 334,009 acres, according to a report by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

The preliminary estimate by the USDA Crop Reporting Board of acreage of peas for canning and certain other processing, except freezing, is

349,850 acres (see INFORMATION LETTER of May 29, page 195).

The planted acreage figures reported by the Statistics Division are based on reports from all canners known to have planted peas for canning this season, with estimates for two firms not reporting. The figures cover only peas planted for canning and do not include acreage for other forms of processing. However, in harvesting, some acreage may be diverted into forms of processing other than canning.

Of the 255,355 acres reported for sweet varieties, the plantings of all sweets amounted to 35,827 acres.

State	1957 Alaskas	1957 Sweets	1957 Total	1956 Total	Percent change from 1956
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
Maine and New York	.....	9,761	9,761	7,773	+26
Maryland	2,042	6,406	8,448	7,779	+ 9
Delaware	1,075	900	1,975	1,805	+ 9
Pennsylvania	2,499	5,833	8,332	9,025	- 8
Ohio	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	....
Indiana	2,322	200	2,522	2,801	-10
Illinois	6,642	23,137	29,779	30,814	- 3
Michigan	855	2,646	3,501	2,835	+23
Wisconsin	39,450	97,430	136,880	132,096	+ 4
Minnesota	15,124	32,273	47,397	45,757	+ 4
Utah and Idaho	.....	9,324	9,324	10,539	-12
Washington and Oregon	7,344	58,395	65,739	68,874	- 5
Other states	4,592	9,052	13,644	13,911	- 2
U. S. Total	81,945	255,357	337,302	334,009	+ 1

(a) Included in other states.

QM To Adopt New Vacuum Requirement for Tomatoes

The Quartermaster Food and Container Institute has informed the N.C.A. that Specification JJJ-T-571 for Canned Tomatoes will be amended to include a vacuum requirement. This will apply to all 1957 procurement of canned tomatoes.

Consideration of this step began in 1954, and during the 1955 N.C.A. Convention the Food and Container Institute held a conference on the subject to which representatives of the tomato canning industry were invited. Following this a proposed amendment to the Specification was circulated for comments. In its initial form, the proposal called for an average vacuum of at least 5 inches, with not more than 10 percent of the cans falling below 3 inches. After receipt of industry comments the proposal was revised to the figures given below, and was included in 1956 procurement on a trial basis.

The new requirement will state that the product shall be packed in such a manner that an average vacuum of not less than 3 inches of mercury is achieved. Not more than 10 percent of the cans tested shall fall below a vacuum of 1 inch of mercury.

Detailed instructions for determining vacuum and correcting readings will also be included.

QMC Requirements for Peaches, RSP Cherries

Tentative requirements for canned peaches and RSP cherries from the 1957 pack to meet the needs of the armed forces were announced June 25 by the Military Subsistence Supply Agency, 226 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago 6, Ill. Procurements will be made by the Military Subsistence Market Centers.

Item	Grade	Type	Can Size	Quantity (pounds)	Quantity (cases)
Peaches	B (Choice)	Type I or II; Style 1, 2, or 3	6/No. 10	12,428,500	306,877
			24/No. 2½	2,606,400	59,917
			Total	15,034,900	366,794
Cherries, RSP	A (Fancy)	Type I (a)	6/No. 10	9,269,000	240,130
			24/No. 303	606,000	25,250
			Total	9,875,000	265,380

Green Peas for Processing

The 1956 indicated production of green peas for processing is 520,450 tons, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This estimate, based on June 15 conditions, is 6 percent smaller than the 545,110 tons obtained in 1956 but is 20 percent above the 1946-55 average of 435,340 tons.

The preliminary estimate of acreage for harvest in 1957 is 460,300 acres. This compares with 473,720 acres harvested in 1956 and the 10-year average of 427,260 acres. In arriving at the estimate of acreage for harvest this season, allowance was made for abandoned acreage and diversion to dry or seed peas about in line with the average for recent years.

The indicated 1957 yield for the United States as of June 15 was 2,261 pounds per acre. This compares with 2,301 pounds obtained in 1956 and the average of 2,030 pounds for the 1946-55 period.

State	10-year avg. 1946-55	1956	1957 Indicated	Percent change from 1956
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)	
Maine	6,470	11,030	7,000	-37
N. Y.	23,000	12,900	16,500	+27
Pa.	16,200	11,860	10,290	-13
Ohio	2,180	900	1,080	+20
Ind.	2,950	2,440	1,950	-20
Ill.	26,350	31,060	32,340	+4
Mich.	5,160	4,400	5,940	+35
Wis.	128,470	126,520	156,400	+24
Minn.	46,060	50,700	54,000	+7
Iowa	3,670	2,370	(2)	....
Del.	2,560	7,450	6,720	-10
Md.	10,060	12,340	9,780	-21
Va.	1,800	2,530	1,450	-43
Idaho	10,400	19,600	19,200	-2
Colo.	2,910	1,760	1,800	+2
Utah	12,720	8,670	9,240	+7
Wash.	65,640	123,490	86,400	-30
Ore.	50,570	83,200	76,250	-8
Calif.	9,520	20,330	13,350	-34
Other states [1]	8,600	11,500	10,780	-6
U. S. Total	435,340	545,110	520,450	-6

[1] Ark., Kans., Mo., Mont., Nebr., N. J., Okla., Tenn., W. Va., and Wyo.
[2] Included in "other states" in 1957 to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Cucumbers for Pickles

The acreage planted to cucumbers for pickles this year is 139,030 acres, according to the preliminary estimate of the Crop Reporting Board of USDA. This is about 10 percent more than the 126,540 acres planted last year and 4 percent below the average planting of 145,350 acres for the preceding 10-year period.

Compared with last year, cucumber acreage is up sharply in most South-

ern states, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Massachusetts. Processors in the Western states have cut their pickling cucumber acreage this year.

Assuming abandonment of 8 per cent, in line with the average for the past 10 years, there will be about 127,900 acres for harvest. This compares with 119,180 acres harvested in 1956 and the 1946-55 average of 133,440 acres.

Snap Beans for Processing

The 1957 acreage of snap beans for processing is estimated at 150,900 acres, 7 percent larger than the acreage planted last year and 15 percent above average, according to the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

Acreage for canning is placed at 118,800 acres, up 11 percent from last year. The 32,100 acres planted for freezing is 5 percent below last year's acreage.

The acreage of green beans is expected to be about 6 percent larger than in 1956. Wax bean acreage is up 15 percent from last year.

State	10-year ave. 1946-55	1956	1957 Indicated	Percent change from 1956
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
Maine	2,720	2,000	2,400	+20
N. Y.	28,040	34,200	37,600	+10
Pa.	4,930	5,500	5,600	+2
Mich.	7,060	7,200	6,300	−12
Wis.	12,970	18,000	21,000	+17
Mo.	600	.....	.....	....
Del.	2,150	3,400	3,400	....
Md.	11,080	10,900	12,500	+15
Va.	3,880	3,500	3,800	+9
N. C.	2,080	2,400	2,000	−17
S. C.	1,370	900	900	....
Ga.	(3)	.....	(3)	....
Fla.	9,970	7,700	8,600	+12
Tenn.	5,330	4,200	5,000	+19
Miss.	(3)	(3)	(3)	....
Ark.	6,550	3,300	3,000	−9
La.	1,120	660	800	+21
Okla.	3,470	2,600	2,000	−23
Texas	7,160	9,000	9,000	....
Colo.	1,460	1,500	1,400	−7
Utah	820	500	500	....
Wash.	2,380	2,200	2,000	−9
Ore.	7,060	10,700	10,500	−2
Calif.	2,120	3,000	3,100	+3
Other states [1]	7,460	7,090	9,510	+34
U. S. Total..	131,480	140,450	150,910	+7
For canning and other processing.	[2] 116,560	106,830	118,810	+11
For freezing.	[2] 34,080	33,620	32,100	−5

[1] Ala., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Ky., Minn., Nebr., N. H., N. J., N. M., Ohio, Vt., and Wyo.

[2] Two-year ave., 1954-55; estimates not available prior to 1954.

[3] Included in "other states" in 1956 and 1957 to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Sweet Corn for Processing

The acreage of sweet corn for processing in 1957 is estimated by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA at 455,000 acres. This is 4 percent less than the 474,880 acres planted in 1956 and 6 percent under the 1946-55 average of 483,570 acres.

Most of the reduction in acreage from last year is reported in white varieties for canning. The acreages of yellow varieties for both canning and freezing are slightly less than in 1956.

The total acreage planted for canning is placed at 391,900 acres, 4 percent less than last wear. The 63,100 acres planted for freezing is 2 percent below the acreage planted in 1956.

State	10-year ave. 1946-55	1956	1957 Indicated	Percent change from 1956
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	
Maine	9,200	5,500	4,700	−15
N. H.	460	430	520	+21
Vt.	820	600	600	....
N. Y.	26,120	21,800	21,700	....
Pa.	12,260	14,000	13,000	−7
Ohio	15,490	7,800	6,900	−12
Ind.	30,980	17,200	18,200	+6
Ill.	66,410	64,000	61,500	−4
Wis.	104,740	118,000	117,000	−1
Minn.	86,720	102,400	101,000	−1
Iowa	30,850	22,500	19,200	−15
Del.	4,670	6,000	5,300	−12
Md.	36,510	31,700	27,900	−12
Idaho	9,870	9,600	10,600	+10
Utah	5,680	5,000	4,700	−6
Wash.	13,980	15,100	14,700	−3
Ore.	13,180	17,500	15,300	−13
Other states [1]	15,540	15,750	12,200	−23
U. S. Total..	483,570	474,880	455,020	−4
For canning and other processing.	[2] 408,600	410,270	391,910	−4
For freezing.	[2] 64,820	64,610	63,110	−2

[1] Ark., Calif., Colo., La., Mich., Mont., Nebr., N. J., Okla., S. D., Tenn., Texas, Va., and Wyo.

[2] Three-year ave., 1953-55; estimates not available prior to 1953.

Citrus Juices under P. L. 480

USDA has amended its Purchase Authorization No. 40-06 issued to Iceland under Title I of P. L. 480 to provide for purchase of an additional $15,000 worth of canned citrus fruit juices.

As amended, the authorization provides for purchase of $40,000 worth of canned citrus juices. The authorization provides for contracting through November 30 and deliveries no later than December 31 (see INFORMATION LETTER of May 11, page 180).

Many Canned Foods Cleared for Export to Soviet Bloc

All canned fruits and fruit juices and a number of canned vegetables may now be shipped to the U.S.S.R. and its European satellites without an individual validated export license.

The canned food products are among some 200 nonstrategic commodities added on June 20 to the list of items that may be exported under general license GLSA.

Items on the GLSA list may be shipped to Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany (Soviet Zone of Germany and Soviet Sector of Berlin), Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Danzig, Rumania, and U.S.S.R.

The canned foods added to the GLSA list are those under Schedule B numbers 130100-135098, which includes all canned fruits, juices and preserves; and Schedule B numbers 124100 (asparagus), 124300 (corn), 124400 (peas), 124510 (soups), 124600 (tomatoes), 124700-124800 (tomato paste, puree, sauce, and juice), 124910-124950 (string beans, lima beans, and spinach), 124970 (baby food vegetables), and 125150 (catsup, chili sauce and similar tomato table sauces).

The change in export control requirements was announced by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce, in its *Current Export Bulletin* No. 787 of June 20.

Study of Farm Safety

Work accidents on the farm killed an average of 3,900 farm people and injured an average of 321,600 more during 1950-55, according to a report by the Agricultural Research Service of USDA.

Most of the study deals with fatal accidents on the farm land and in and around service buildings. It also reports on accidents in farm homes, motor vehicle accidents involving farm people, and off-farm accidents not involving motor vehicles.

In the various five-year age groups, the highest number of machinery-caused deaths occurred to farm people between 55 and 59 years old. Animal-caused deaths also were highest among older people.

A free copy of the report, *Fatal Farm Accidents in the United States, 1949-53* (ARS-43-50), may be obtained from the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Deciduous Fruit Prospects

Prospects on June 1 for the 1957 deciduous fruit crop were generally good, according to a review by the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA on *The Fruit Situation.*

Larger production than last year has been indicated for all of the deciduous fruits except fresh plums and dried prunes and grapes for raisins and table use.

The prospective increases over last season's production have been reported by USDA at 31 percent for sweet cherries, 30 percent for sour cherries, 12 percent for peaches, 8 percent for apricots, and 2 percent for pears.

Prospects also point to a larger crop of commercial apples than last year for the country as a whole. The first official forecast of the 1957 crop will be issued by USDA July 10.

The 1957 commercial strawberry crop is expected to set a new record, 18 percent larger than the 1956 crop and 62 percent above the 1949-55 average.

USDA said the index of prices received by growers for fruit during the first five months of 1957 was somewhat higher than in the same period of 1956 and considerably higher than the average for 1951-55. The level of prices has more than doubled over the past two decades.

Stocks of Canned Foods on June 1 and Season Shipments

Reports on canners' stocks and shipments of canned sweet cherries, apricots, peaches, pears, green and wax beans, corn, and peas have been issued by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics, and detailed reports on the June 1 stock and shipment situation have been mailed to all canners of these products.

Item	Carry-over month	Case basis	Total Supply 1955	Total Supply 1956	Canners' Stocks June 1 1956	Canners' Stocks June 1 1957	Season Shipments to June 1 1956	Season Shipments to June 1 1957
			(thousands of cases)					
Sweet cherries	June	24/2½	1,647	1,113	415	[a] 105	1,232	1,008
Apricots	June	24/2½	6,144	5,373	1,222	[a] 1,016	4,922	4,357
Peaches	June	24/2½	23,584	30,136	2,239	[a] 6,276	21,345	23,860
Pears	June	24/2½	9,932	10,610	1,729	[a] 2,662	8,203	7,948
Green and wax beans	July	actual	29,070	29,589	5,612	5,475	23,458	24,115
Corn	Aug.	actual	34,530	44,390	5,336	10,010	29,194	34,381
Peas	June	actual	33,096	35,152	2,058	[a] 3,901	31,037	31,251

[a] Carryover from 1956 pack into 1957-58 season.

Canned Baby Food Stocks

Details of the canned baby food supply, stock and shipment situation are reported by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics as follows:

	1956	1957
	(thousands of dozens)	
Canner stocks, Jan. 1	77,017	74,965
Pack, Jan.-May	51,223	54,901
Supply	128,240	129,866
Canner stocks, June 1	58,310	57,588
Canner shipments, May	12,901	14,642
Canner shipments, Jan.-May	69,930	72,278

Pack of Canned Meat

The quantity of meat canned and meat products processed under federal inspection during the month of May has been reported by the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA at 152,898 thousand pounds, including quantities for defense.

Canned Meat and Meat Products Processed under Federal Inspection, May, 1957

	3 Lbs. & over	Under 3 Lbs.	Total
	(thousands of pounds)		
Luncheon meat	11,583	8,840	20,424
Canned hams	15,938	410	16,348
Beef hash	252	3,757	4,009
Chili con carne	201	4,837	5,037
Vienna sausage	40	4,651	4,691
Frankfurters and weiners in brine	.....	325	325
Deviled ham	.....	618	618
Other potted and deviled meat products	.....	2,486	2,486
Tamales	208	1,371	1,578
Sliced, dried beef	8	252	260
Chopped beef	.....	1,162	1,162
Meat stew	104	3,090	3,194
Spaghetti meat products	208	7,337	7,545
Tongue (not pickled)	41	145	187
Vinegar pickled products	612	1,190	1,802
Sausage	13	633	646
Hamburger	65	2,274	2,339
Soups	1,152	44,774	45,926
Sausage in oil	346	116	462
Tripe	.....	400	400
Brains	.....	166	166
Loins and picnics	2,059	168	2,227
All other products 20% or more meat	239	4,856	5,095
All other products less than 20% meat (except soup)	422	21,627	22,049
Total all products	33,491	115,488	148,979

Columns do not add to totals shown in all cases since rounded figures are used. Amounts packed for defense are not included in these items. Total production, including quantities for defense agencies, was 152,898 thousand pounds.

Production and Utilization of Sour Cherries

Production of sour cherries in the major 11 producing states this year is expected to total 130,330 tons, 30 percent above last year and 3 percent above average, according to a June 21 report by the Crop Reporting Board of USDA.

The crop of sour cherries in the five Great Lakes states is estimated as of June 15 at 118,300 tons. This is 32 percent above the 89,900 tons obtained there last year and slightly above the 10-year average of 115,512 tons.

The Western crop was forecast on June 1 at 12,030 tons, 20 percent above both last year and average.

A smaller proportion of the crop was canned in 1956 than in 1955. The quantity of cherries reported as canned was 79,363 tons in 1955 and 44,903 tons in 1956, 54 and 46 percent of the totals, respectively. The quantity reported as frozen was 58,689 tons or 40 percent of the 1955 crop and 44,254 tons or 45 percent of the 1956 crop.

State	Production: 10-year ave. 1946-55	Production: 1956	Production: 1957 Indicated	Production: Percent change from 1956	Utilization: Total sold [a]	Utilization: 1956 Canned	Utilization: Canned as a percent of sales: 1956	Utilization: Canned as a percent of sales: 1955
	(tons)	(tons)	(tons)		(tons)	(tons)		
New York	21,810	14,400	21,000	+46	14,180	1,762	12	18
Pennsylvania	8,200	8,400	12,500	+49	9,540	6,620	69	63
Ohio	1,792	1,800	1,700	−6				
Michigan	68,150	55,000	71,000	+29	54,775	28,000	51	69
Wisconsin	15,560	10,300	12,100	+17	10,010	4,300	43	53
Other states [c]	10,836	10,040	12,030	+20	8,930	4,223	47	52
Total, 11 states	126,348	99,940	130,330	+30	97,435	[b] 44,903	46	54

[a] Includes fruit sold for fresh market, freezing, canning, and other uses.
[b] Includes small quantities used for brined, juice, jam, etc.
[c] Mont., Idaho, Colo., Utah, Wash., and Ore.

Business Economy Marked by Price Rises and Investment

The broad picture of business activity in the late spring has been one of little change, with over-all output maintained at a record rate, the Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce, reports in the June issue of its monthly *Survey of Current Business*.

Demands in major segments of the economy are strong, although mixed movements continue to characterize particular industries and products. General price averages are showing minor fluctuations in wholesale markets but at retail there have been steady advances.

Of basic significance in its bearing on the economic situation is the programmed expansion in capital investment of business for the second and third quarters of this year. The projected investment increases—as recorded in the OBE-SEC quarterly survey of business anticipations, just completed—are not large, but the modest upward trend at such a high level reaffirms indications from the previous survey, taken a few months ago, that plant and equipment spending would provide a strong support to the general economy this year.

Personal income in May reached a record annual rate of $340½ billion, up $1 billion from April and $18 billion or 5½ percent above May a year ago.

Total wages and salaries were stable from April to May as an appreciable drop in factory payrolls—reflecting reductions in both employment and average hours worked—was offset by further increases in nonmanufacturing industries. Seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment was also unchanged in May, continuing the pattern of over-all stability since last fall.

Besides wages and salaries, most other types of income flowing to individuals from current production showed only nominal changes in May, and the bulk of the personal income rise came from old-age and survivors' benefits. These have been rising sharply in the past few months as farmers and other groups that were covered by social security for the first time in 1955 have become eligible to receive payments. Exclusive of old-age benefits, personal income in April and May edged up slightly over March and was about $2 billion higher than the average for the first quarter as a whole.

The latest data on inventories indicate a continuation of the conservative inventory policy adopted by business early this year, OBE reports. This policy has reduced some of the price pressures in primary markets and has contributed to the leveling out of the rise in wholesale commodity prices. It has also been a principal factor in the moderately reduced flow of new business to manufacturers. New orders booked in April, as in the two preceding months, were down somewhat from the high rates around the turn of the year, and were below current shipments. In April alone, new orders were little changed from the previous month and were about the same as in April 1956.

Total consumer demand has remained high, OBE said. Extension of the uninterrupted advance in outlays for services, coupled with the sustained rate of commodity buying evident from the monthly retail sales reports, means that consumer expenditures are giving a slight lift to the economy.

Sales of retail stores in May, after allowance for seasonal influences, were a little above April. For April and May combined, sales were 5 percent above a year ago.

The *Survey of Current Business* is available from field offices of the U. S. Department of Commerce or from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at an annual subscription price of $4.00, including weekly supplements; single copy, 30 cents.

Releases to City Newspapers

Columns of fillers for food papers of metropolitan newspapers were sent out June 1 as part of the N. C. A. Consumer and Trade Relations Program.

One release, to seven papers with circulation of 1,600,000, dealt with the advantages of using canned foods during hot weather.

Another, circulated to 53 papers with circulation of 7,600,000, showed how canned foods make summertime living easier, recommending jellied soup or soup on the rocks, and pointing out how many of the canned meats, fish or poultry products can be served cold, concluding with the suggestion of embellishing ice cream with a favorite canned fruit.

The canned foods that are especially suitable for summer picnics—ready-made sandwich spreads of meat, poultry, fish, baked beans, chili, and fruit juice—were the subject of a third release, sent to 21 newspapers with circulation of 4,700,000.

N.C.A. Gives Instruction at Canners Technicians Schools

Instruction of canners' technicians in the Howard mold count method will be given as usual this summer in Indiana and New York. Personnel of the N.C.A. Research Laboratories, together with those of the two major can companies, will conduct the instruction.

Each of the courses covers a two-week period. The first week is devoted to beginner students, and the second week is used for continued instruction of new counters and as a review for experienced counters who return for a refresher course.

Instruction consists of lectures, demonstrations and laboratory practice covering the use of the microscope, histology of the tomato, characteristics of mold, preparation of the Howard mold count slide, and counting techniques.

The school in Indiana will be held at Purdue University, July 8-19, under sponsorship of the Indiana Canners Association.

The school in New York will be held at Geneva, July 31 through August 9, under sponsorship of the New York State Canners and Freezers Association.

Members of the N.C.A. Laboratory staff also will participate in the Insect Fragment Detection School at Purdue University, July 22-26.

Buying Guide for Institutions

A new handbook on canned foods has been prepared by the Home Economics Section of American Can Company and is now being distributed to institutional food buyers and meal planners.

The 29-page illustrated booklet, *Purchase and Use of Canned Foods*, gives information in chart form on the number of servings per can, number of cans required per 100 servings, and cost per serving of approximately 100 varieties and styles of the most commonly used canned foods.

Miss Edalene Stohr, head of Canco's Home Economics Section, announced that the booklet was created to fill a need among institutional food buyers for pertinent canned food information which never before has been compiled in a convenient handbook for general use.

"The timeliness of the work is borne out," she explained, "by the fact that 25½ billion meals a year, or one out of four, are served outside the home."

N.C.A. Fruit Projects Steering Committee Encourages Research toward Meeting Needs of Fruit Processors

The Fruit Projects Steering Committee, a subcommittee of the Technical Advisory Committee, functions through the Raw Products Research Bureau to stimulate research on fruit problems of concern to the canning industry. The primary objective of the Committee is to survey the research work being done by the various state agricultural experiment stations on fruit problems and emphasize the importance of "slanting" their research objectives toward the use of fruit for processing. This Committee has been very active during the past two years and the chairman has made specific assignments to Committee members to keep in close touch with fruit research in their areas during the coming season.

Following are some of the more important projects of interest to canners which will receive the attention of the Fruit Projects Steering Committee this year:

Pear Decline Problem

State of Washington

Canners in the Northwest brought to the attention of the N.C.A. and the Northwest Canners and Freezers Association that in a number of locations pear trees were dying without any apparent reason. A survey of the situation was made and the matter was brought to the attention of the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station. The director of the station assigned a task force to survey the condition and make recommendations for solving the problem. This was done and further meetings were held with canners, growers and research personnel in the Northwest.

As a result of these meetings the canners in the Northwest and the growers jointly provided financial support to the Washington Experiment Station and ten research personnel were assigned to this problem. Members of the Fruit Projects Steering Committee located in the Northwest are following the progress of this research program in cooperation with other raw products personnel of the Northwest Canners and Freezers Association.

Bitter Pit (York Spot) Problems on Apples

A meeting of the Committee with research and industry leaders from the Appalachian area was held in Washington in November of 1956 to discuss the bitter pit problem of apples. The problem of York spot or bitter pit on the York variety is of particular concern to the apple processors in the Appalachian district. A survey of the apple processors with regard to the bitter pit problem conducted this past winter will be summarized and distributed in the near future to research workers and processors concerned. Personal discussions of the problem with processors in the Appalachian area and research workers in the East have been or will be made by committee members and N.C.A. personnel throughout the year. As a result of the conference in November, a new project concerned with a study of the possible cause of bitter pit on apples was initiated this spring at the Maryland Experiment Station.

Pear and Apple Breeding

Indiana Agricultural Experiment Station

Several members of the Fruit Projects Steering Committee this past year reviewed quite intensively the fruit breeding work being conducted at Purdue by plant breeders in horticulture and research personnel in plant pathology. They have developed a procedure for testing large numbers of pear seedlings in the greenhouse for blight resistance and large progenies of apple selections for scab resistance.

The Committee will follow this work very closely because of its intensive nature and the importance of new improved fruit varieties to a growing processing industry. Research personnel at Purdue have asked the Committee to furnish specifications on the type and quality of apples and pears that the processing industry requires. The Committee through the Raw Products Research Bureau will attempt to obtain this specific type of information from the canning industry this year on apples both for slices and sauce. A summary report will then be forwarded to all fruit breeders in the experiment stations and in the USDA.

Peach Rot and Handling Study

Northwest

Several western members of the Fruit Projects Steering Committee are following the study of the *Rhizopus* problem in peaches and associated handling problems being carried on jointly by the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station and the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA. Committee members have discussed this problem with USDA workers in Chicago, Illinois and Wenatchee, Wash., and also with the research personnel of the Washington Experiment Station. Working jointly with the Northwest Canners and Freezers Association, it has been possible to emphasize the importance of this study from the standpoint of the canning industry.

Peach Breeding and Seedling Evaluation

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Many new promising peach seedlings have been developed through the breeding program being conducted at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Committee efforts have resulted in arrangements for further evaluation of the selections through the East and Midwest. A memorandum of understanding with the New Jersey Station governing the release of this breeding material for pilot testing has been worked out. Approximately ten trees of six to ten new selections will be planted this fall at several Eastern and Midwest experiment stations under an agreement with the New Jersey Station for evaluation of their production potential.

The Fruit Projects Steering Committee will be responsible, after the trees come into bearing, for seeing that experimental canned samples are packed for comparison with standard varieties of peaches used for processing.

The USDA Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., also has developed a number of peach selections in their breeding program in trial plantings with processors in the Virginia area. The Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA is cooperating in evaluating the selections for processing quality.

Raw Products TAC Observes Operation of Mobile Viner

Several members of the N.C.A. Raw Products Technical Advisory Committee observed the experimental pea combine in operation at Seabrook Farms in Deerfield, N. J., June 21. Detailed records are being taken on the operation of this harvester in comparison with stationery viners.

Other members of the Raw Products TAC will evaluate the performance of other pea harvesting equipment in other areas this season.

MONTMORENCY CHERRY RESEARCH
Michigan

Several members of the Fruit Projects Steering Committee are advising and closely following the comprehensive study at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station on the Montmorency cherry with regard to the influence of cultural practices, maturity and various fertilizer practices (foliage and ground application) on the quality of the processed fruit. Both chemical and physical analyses of the fruit will be a part of this study. Some phases of this work have been studied previously and will only be reviewed. Other phases have been started while certain studies are still in the planting stage.

Pilot-plant studies on improving the texture of processed sour cherries by modification of soaking and processing procedures are also being conducted at Michigan. Research on the effects of post-harvest bruising and freezing practices on the quality of sour cherries is under way in New York and Michigan in cooperation with the Eastern Utilization Research and Development Division of the USDA at Wyndmoor, Pa.

Individual members of the Fruit Projects Steering Committee and the Raw Products Research Bureau will make personal contacts with the experiment station workers during the year to familiarize themselves more intimately with the research work being done on fruit problems and report this back to the over-all committee before their meeting in November. The committee will then evaluate the over-all program to determine whether any "gaps" exist, and will formulate plans where necessary to see that work is initiated or modified to obtain the desired results for the processing industry.

Canned Raspberry Grades

Notice is given in the *Federal Register* of June 29 that the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA proposes to revise U. S. standards for grades of canned raspberries.

The proposed revision would provide for reddish-purple and black raspberries in addition to red raspberries. The drained weights which are proposed are slightly lower thon those in the current standards for red raspberries.

The proposed grades would be the same as in the present standards—U. S. Grade A (Fancy), U. S. Grade B (Choice), U. S. Grade C (Standard), and Substandard.

Seven Canners Appointed to Fisheries Advisory Committee

Seven canners have been appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to advise on federal responsibility in the field of fishery research.

The American Fisheries Advisory Committee was authorized by the so-called Saltonstall-Kennedy Act of 1954, which makes available to the Secretary of the Interior each fiscal year an amount equal to 30 percent of the gross receipts from customs duties collected on imported fishery products. These funds are used for research to develop and increase markets for domestic fishery products.

All appointments to the 19-man Committee, which represents all segments of the American fishing industry, were to expire June 30. The seven canners appointed to new terms on the Committee are:

Lawrence Calvert, San Juan Fishing and Packing Co., Seattle, Wash.; Chris Dahl, Kayler-Dahl Fish Co., Petersburg, Alaska; Donald P. Loker, Star-Kist Foods, Inc., Terminal Island, Calif.; James McPhillips, McPhillips Packing Corp., Mobile, Ala.; Arthur H. Mendonca, F. E. Booth Co., Inc., San Francisco, Calif.; Moses B. Pike, Holmes Packing Corp., Eastport, Me.; and T. F. Sandoz, Columbia River Packers Assn., Astoria, Ore.

Macfadden Publications

In the June issue of *True Love* magazine, Esther Foley, home service director, features canned tomatoes and tomato products in her article "Meat goes with Tomato." In the introduction to the six recipes, Miss Foley says, "Whether you serve it with meat, on meat, or in meat, tomato flavor will surely enrich any meat dish!" Meat loaf, hash, baked pork chops, hamburger casserole, short ribs, and spaghetti sauce recipes use tomato sauce, tomatoes, ketchup, and canned peas.

Each of the reader's recipes sent to Miss Foley for the article "Tonight Eat Picnic Style!" in the July issue of *True Story* magazine contain canned foods. Tomato sauce, ketchup, chili sauce, consomme, kidney beans, tomato juice and paste are used.

Another Macfadden magazine, *True Romance*, carries the article "Have a Picnic Supper Inside or Out" in the July issue, with canned foods used in each of the six recipes. They are canned tomatoes, tomato paste and sauce, ketchup, and pork and beans.

Tidewater Canners Assn.

T. C. Slaughter of T. C. Slaughter Co., Reedville, was elected president of the Tidewater Canners Association of Virginia, Inc., recently at the group's annual meeting.

H. H. Perry of H. H. Perry Canning Co., Montross, was elected vice president, and Robert Harris, Cople Canning Co., Kinsale, was elected secretary-treasurer.

The Tidewater association voted to join forces with the Virginia Canners Association. The proposed merger will not take place until the annual meeting of the Virginia association in March.

Small Business Administration

(Concluded from page 231)

proper account of other relevant factors."

SBA has a different definition of small business for purposes of financial assistance. This says that a concern is small if it employs 250 or fewer employees and large if it employs more than 1,000 employees, and either as small or large depending on its industry and the employment size standards set by the SBA. The SBA set 250 as the employment size standard for canning.

[The SBA's regulation setting forth small business size standards for purposes of government procurement and for purposes of financial assistance is reproduced in the INFORMATION LETTER of Dec. 8, 1956, page 368.]

H. R. 7693 also would reduce the interest rate on direct SBA business loans and on SBA's share of such loans made in participation with private lenders from 6 to 5 percent, and would eliminate the ceiling on the interest rate on the private lender's share.

The bill also would authorize SBA to make business loans in amounts up to $500 million, instead of to $250 million outstanding. No single loan would exceed $250,000 either under present law or the new legislation.

Lending policies would be established by a National Small Business Advisory Board, made up of the Administrator as chairman, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce and from two to 6 representatives of small business. This advisory group would replace a Loan Policy Board which does not include small business representatives.

The Small Business Act of 1953 is due to expire July 31.

Status of Legislation

Agricultural trade development—S. 1314 (Ellender of La.), to raise Title I authorizations from $3 billion to $4 billion and extend P. L. 480 to June 30, 1958, was passed by the Senate April 1 and by the House June 21 and sent to conference.

Alaska statehood—H. R. 7999, to provide statehood for Alaska, was reported by House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee June 25. Senate Committee continues hearings on statehood for Alaska and Hawaii.

Defense procurement—S. 1537 (McClellan of Ark. and McCarthy of Wis.) and a number of companion bills in the House, to create a "Supply and Service Administration" in the Department of Defense for purchase and distribution of common supply items, in line with Hoover Commission recommendations, have been introduced and referred to Armed Services Committees.

FDA chemical additives—H. R. 6747 (Harris of Ark.) and S. 1895 (Hill of Ala.), the Administration-sponsored bill, and H. R. 8390 (Harris of Ark.) would regulate the use of chemical additives in foods. Hearings by House Commerce Subcommittee tentatively scheduled to begin in mid-July.

Fishermen's Protective Act—Bills to broaden protection of fishermen on the high seas were the subject of a hearing by a House Merchant Marine Subcommittee April 17.

Government contracts—H. R. 722, to amend the Robinson-Patman Act so as to make sales to nonprofit institutions for resale, subject to the Act, has been referred to House Judiciary Committee.

ICC agricultural exemption—S. 1689 (Magnuson of Wash.) and H. R. 5823 (Harris of Ark.), to amend the agricultural exemption in sec. 203 (b) (6) of the Interstate Commerce Act, have been introduced.

ICC private carrier definition—S. 1677 (Magnuson of Wash.) and H.R. 5825 (Harris of Ark.), to amend the definition of a private motor carrier, as recommended by the ICC, was the subject of hearings by the Senate Surface Transportation Subcommittee May 6-10.

ICC private carrier registration—S. 1490 (Magnuson of Wash.) and H. R. 5664 (Harris of Ark.), to require private motor carriers to register with the ICC annually, was approved by the Senate Surface Transportation Subcommittee April 12 and further action on the bill has been postponed indefinitely.

Marketing orders, cranberries—S. 1680 (10 Senators from 5 cranberry producing states) and other bills to amend the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act so as to authorize marketing orders for cranberries for canning, were the subject of hearings by a Senate Agriculture Subcommittee April 20. N.C.A. opposes.

North Pacific Fisheries Act—S. 2212, to extend the area of federal control over net fishing of salmon and certain other fish, was passed by the Senate June 26.

Packers and Stockyards Act—S. 1356 (O'Mahoney of Wyo.), to transfer antitrust jurisdiction over meat packing operations from USDA to FTC, was approved, without recommendation, by the Senate Antitrust Subcommittee June 21 and is pending before the Judiciary Committee. Similar bills were subject of House hearings June 5-14.

Potato marketing and labeling—A number of bills to prohibit the sale of potatoes of a lower grade than U. S. No. 2, under certain conditions, were the subject of hearings by the House Agriculture Committee April 15-16 and by the Senate Agriculture Committee May 21-22. N.C.A. opposes application to canning.

Poultry inspection—S. 1747 (Aiken of Vt.), providing for compulsory USDA inspection of poultry products, was passed by the Senate April 8. H. R. 6814 was reported by House Agriculture Committee May 20.

Premerger notification—H. R. 7698 (Celler of N. Y.), to require 60 days notice prior to merger of corporations having total book value of more than $10 million, was reported by House Judiciary Committee May 28.

Raw product bargaining—S. 1743 (Aiken of Vt.), to legalize organized bargaining for agricultural commodities under certain conditions, has been referred to Senate Agriculture Committee, which has requested USDA views; and H. R. 6799 (Bow of Ohio) and H. R. 7807 (Bentley of Mich.) have been referred to House Judiciary Committee. No action scheduled.

Robinson-Patman Act—S. 11 (Kefauver of Tenn.) and H. R. 11 (Patman of Tex.), to restrict the good faith defense against a charge of price discrimination, was approved without recommendation, by Senate Antitrust Subcommittee June 21 and is pending before the Judiciary Committee.

Small Business Administration—H. R. 7963 (Spence of Ky.), to make the SBA permanent and to revise its lending authority, was passed by the House, with amendments, June 25.

Sockeye Salmon Fishery Act—S. 1806, to amend the Sockeye Salmon Fishery Act of 1947 so as to extend regulatory authority of the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission to include pink salmon, was passed by Senate May 22. H. R. 6587, with amendments, was reported, with an amendment, by House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee June 13.

Wage-Hour—S. 1853 (Kennedy), which includes proposal to eliminate overtime fishery exemption, was approved, without recommendation, by Senate Labor Subcommittee May 7. The Senate Labor Committee considered the bill in executive session on May 22, May 28, June 5 and June 25-26 but took no final action. House bills were considered by House Labor Subcommittee in executive session June 3, June 14, and June 18-20.

Waste disposal—H. R. 1082 (Byrnes of Wis.), H. R. 2463 (Lipscomb of Calif.), and H. R. 4134 (Simpson of Pa.), to allow rapid amortization of waste disposal facilities and treatment works, have been introduced. N.C.A. supports the proposal, which is before House Ways and Means Committee.

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